

It is gratifying to us to observe the number of Professors and Theological Students, and we are persuaded that your school of the Prophets will prove a great instrument in the hands of our Divine Master of perpetuating and extending his church in your ample territory, and making the moral wilderness to "rejoice and blossom as the rose."

The Home and Foreign Missionary efforts which you have made, give us yet farther reason to expect good things for your church. In this going forth to the world without, we would see evidence that your own spiritual growth is advancing; and in the sweet converse which is held in foreign lands from time to time between Missionaries sent out from different countries, we recognise the oneness of that principle which animates and supports the whole army of the faithful.

We see with satisfaction that you are so fully alive to the responsibilities that rest upon you, and notice the determination you cherish, in dependence on Divine aid, to endeavour to act answerably to them. We readily understand that the character of your population is such as to render your Missions in some respects peculiar and very arduous, but we need hardly to remind you that endeavouring to cultivate the field of labour in which Providence has placed you, you are warranted to expect, as well needed strength, as great results.

We are happy to find that you appreciate the blessings which have flowed, and continue to flow from unions in this land, as in your own. As time rolls on we see more and more cause to be thankful for the results which have attended the secessions from the Established Church, in pursuing the light of our common faith and the warmth of vital christianity. And it is perhaps not easy to overrate the blissful consequences that have attended, and may be expected to follow, the gathering into one of those who, in their separate states, did good service to the common cause, by presenting one aspect to the christian world, and one front to the common foe—the estrangements of the past merging into the harmonies of the present, and the feelings and energies which were wasted by division combining into unity of purpose, counsel and action.

It will interest you to be informed that the United Presbyterian Church now comprises 551 congregations, and 167,558 members, being an increase during the past Synodical year of 4000 members. The number attending prayer-meetings is 52,119. Of Sabbath School Teachers, there are 9214, and of scholars, 71,635. During our last financial year there has been liquidated £38,514 of Debt which rested upon congregations, and the sum of £42,679 has been raised among us for Missionary and benevolent objects. For all purposes of an ecclesiastical and missionary character there has been contributed during the year the sum of £205,167, being an average of 24s. 5½d. per member. We are happy to add that the attendance at the Theological Hall amounts to 163 Students, of whom 31 have entered for the first year, giving us cause for present thankfulness, and of humble hope that the Lord has farther work and blessing in store for our Church, not in our own country only, but also in other lands.

In these tokens of Divine favor to the Church of our common Fathers, and of the perpetuation and extension of our common faith and polity, and in the hopeful dawn of a brighter and more blissful day than we have yet seen, we know that you will rejoice with us.

We cannot close this letter without expressing our belief that union has not yet with us been carried out to its full practicable extent, and that ere long in the good Providence of God, the Free Church and ourselves will be one. In the meantime, you will be glad to know that the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" is being strengthened, that pulpits are freely interchanged, that mutual prejudices are lessening, and that, as we believe, the fellowship already existing is progressing towards final union.

And now, Dear Brethren, may the God of love and peace be with us both. May He establish the work of our hands upon us, yea the work of our hands may he establish it.

Signed in name, and by appointment of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church.

DAVID SMITH, D.D., *Moderator.*
WILLIAM BECKETT, *Synod Clerk.*